

values that were exceptionally great, and that he was always willing to help everybody any time, any way that he could." This sentiment was not only found around Highland Baptist Church.

Charles Hendrix was a charter member of the Molino Volunteer Fire Department, where he served as fire chief, assistant fire chief, and secretary of the department's board of directors. Former fire chief Harry Nowlin was inspired by Charles: "I've never met a finer gentleman in all my life."

Mr. Hendrix was also a member of the Cantonment Rotary Club for 44 years. He served one term as president and was an active member of the Club Service Committee. He was presented the prestigious Paul Harris Award, and in 2003, he received the club's "Gator Estes Service Above Self Award."

Mr. Hendrix went to be with the Lord last October at the early age of 75. Madam Speaker, I, along with the residents of Northwest Florida, can think of no better way to honor this highly respected, admirable man than to dedicate the Cantonment Post Office in his name.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 10, 2007*

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately yesterday, October 9, 2007, I was unable to cast my votes on H. Res. 32 and H.R. 400.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 949 on suspending the rules and passing H. Res. 32, denouncing the practices of female genital mutilation, domestic violence, "honor killings," and other gender-based persecutions and expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that participation, protection, recognition, and independence of women is crucial to achieving a just, moral and honorable society, I would have voted "yea."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 950 on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 400, War Profiteering Prevention Act, I would have voted "yea."

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO DR. GUILLERMO LINARES, PhD

#### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 10, 2007*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, today I rise to ask my colleagues to take a moment to honor the outstanding achievements of the 35 million Hispanic Americans in commemoration of Hispanic Heritage Month.

One of those 35 million Hispanic Americans is Dr. Guillermo Linares, whom I am honored to acknowledge for all his wonderful contributions and remarkable leadership in public service. Dr. Linares, who brings a long record of distinguished public service, has blazed an inspiring path so that future generations of Hispanic Americans can grasp the same opportunities to develop into tomorrow's leaders.

Dr. Guillermo Linares has the historic distinction of being the first Dominican elected to

public office in the United States. He served from 1991 to 2001 in the New York City Council, where he advocated for quality education, vital health services, and affordable housing.

For more than 30 years, Dr. Linares has remained committed to improving public education and championing immigrant issues. His advocacy started in Washington Heights, where he worked as a school teacher. Witnessing the need for active involvement, he ran for membership of the local school board and served there for three terms. In the 1980s, Dr. Linares and others were responsible for the building of desperately needed public schools for the growing immigrant community in Washington Heights.

Dr. Linares' work has garnered him city-wide and national respect. In 1998, the Black and Latino Legislative Caucus of the NYC Council elected then-Council Member Linares as its copresident. Dr. Linares was tapped in 1995 to serve in a national capacity as a member of the White House Initiative for Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans. President William Clinton appointed him in 1999 as chair of this initiative.

He was also a part of a movement in the late 1970s and early 1980s to establish key institutions that continue to serve Dominican and Latino populations. With other activists and leaders, Dr. Linares helped to establish the Community Association of Progressive Dominicans, the Puerto Rican/Latino Education Round Table and the Parents Coalition for Education in New York City. Dr. Linares was instrumental in the founding of the Dominican Studies Institute at City College, the Audubon Partnership for Economic Development and the Center for Latin American and Latino Studies at the CUNY Graduate Center. He also served for six years as a board member of the National Council of "La Raza." He currently is the co-chair of "Encuentro 2000 and Beyond" a national Latino leadership group.

In his current role as Commissioner of the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs for the City of New York, Dr. Linares works to strengthen bridges between city government and immigrant communities. He—who grew up dirt poor in a dirt-floored hut in the Dominican Republic—shares the experiences and aspirations of immigrant New Yorkers. Having left his native Dominican Republic to arrive to the City of New York at age 15 in 1966, knowing not a word of English, drove a taxi for long hours to support his family. At the same time, he pursued a higher education so that he could advance.

Dr. Linares received a Bachelor of Arts and Masters of Science degree from City College and a professional diploma in administration and supervision from Fordham University. He recently achieved his doctorate in education from Teachers College, Columbia University. Dr. Linares' wife, Evelyn, is a dedicated public school principal. They are proud parents of two children, Guillermo Linares Jr. and Mayra Linares, who currently serves as the Democratic District Leader of Part A of the 72nd District of the New York State Assembly. His family has been critical to his accomplishments as a community activist, an elected official and an academic.

At a time when so many question the role and value of immigrants in today's society, it is essential to remember the achievements of remarkable public servants such as Dr. Guillermo Linares. Let us all remember that immi-

grant dreams and values—Hispanic dreams and values—are no different than the dreams and values that we all wish for our families and our Nation.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE PROMOTION OF HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ACT

#### HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 10, 2007*

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, we live in the Information Age, but health care, one of the most information-intensive segments of our economy remains mired in a pen-and-paper past. We can buy airline tickets online, we can check our bank accounts from anywhere in the world, and we send pictures of new babies and grandchildren to friends and family via e-mail or instant messages. The health care industry, however, remains dangerously disconnected. Patients' medical histories are largely disaggregated among the various physicians who have treated them, and are often inaccessible to a new doctor or even to the patients themselves.

Such an inefficient health care information system creates unnecessary risks and costs. It's time to look at health care in a new way, focusing on overall health and not simply disease. We need to move toward a model of integrated care by providing ways for a patient's physicians to coordinate their care, and promote the modernization of our nation's health care system.

Health information technology (HIT) promises to revolutionize the health care delivery system and have a powerful effect on enhancing patient safety, reducing medical errors, improving the quality of care, and reducing health care costs. The deployment of HIT and the adoption of important patient tools such as electronic health records (EHRs) have been slow and have not kept pace with the advances of technology in nearly every other aspect of our lives.

To accelerate the adoption of HIT and create market conditions and incentives which will encourage investment in this critical technology, I'm introducing today the Promotion of Health Information Technology Act. This legislation builds on the excellent work of Senators KENNEDY and ENZI and will promote HIT in the federal government and throughout the health care sector.

Any meaningful HIT legislation must establish a process for the rapid formulation and implementation of standards to facilitate the exchange of interoperable health data and create incentives to ensure that these technologies are actually adopted. The Promotion of Health Information Technology Act establishes a streamlined process for the adoption of HIT interoperability standards and requires the federal government to abide by the standards it sets.

The legislation establishes a permanent position within HHS with broad responsibility to facilitate the exchange of interoperable health information and coordination of the government's own health IT activities and procurement. It also creates a permanent public-private advisory body to recommend or endorse appropriate HIT interoperability standards with